

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition suitable for application to denuded soil so as to prevent or slow erosion of the soil, the composition comprising the mixture products of:

a soil binding portion for binding soil particles together comprised of the mixture products of:

~~water;~~

a carbohydrate;

a protein;

an iron compound; and

a strong base for increasing solubility of the carbohydrate and protein in ~~the water~~ by making the composition strongly alkaline pH at least initially; and

a soil revegetation portion comprised of:

a fibrous material comprising at least two different types of fibers,

one of the types of fibers that promote adhesion of the composition to soil, and

another of the types of fibers that facilitate emergence of newly sprouted seeds or plants through the fibrous material when applied to soil.

2. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, ~~said~~ further comprising water having a concentration in a range of about 60% to about 99.9% by weight of the composition.

3. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said carbohydrate and said protein comprise at least one type of endosperm.

4. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 3, wherein said endosperm is derived or extracted from at least one type of cereal grain or legume.

5. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 4, wherein said endosperm is derived or extracted from at least one member selected from the group comprising wheat, rice, potatoes, corn, barley, sorghum, soy beans, and pinto beans.

6. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 3, wherein said carbohydrate and protein of said endosperm are derived from a single source.

7. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 3, wherein said carbohydrate and protein of said endosperm are derived from different sources.

8. (Previously Presented) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 3, said endosperm having a concentration in a range of about 25% to about 95% by weight of solid components exclusive of said water.

9. (Previously Presented) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 3, said endosperm having a concentration in a range of about 50% to about 85% by weight of solid components exclusive of said water.

10. (Previously Presented) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 3, said endosperm having a concentration in a range of about 60% to about 75% by weight of solid components exclusive of said water.

11. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said iron compound comprising at least one type of iron oxide.

12. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said iron compound comprising at least one of ferric oxide, ferrous oxide, iron halide or iron hydroxide.

13. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said iron compound having a concentration in a range of about 0.01% to about 5% by weight of solid components in said composition ~~exclusive of said water~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said iron compound having a concentration in a range of about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of solid components in said composition ~~exclusive of said water~~.

15. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said strong base comprising at least one member selected from the group comprising alkali metal oxides, alkaline earth metal oxides, alkali metal oxides, alkali metal hydroxides, and alkali metal carbonates.

16. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said strong base having a concentration in a range of about 15% to about 50% by weight of solid components in said composition ~~exclusive of said water~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said strong base having a concentration in a range of about 25% to about 40% by weight of solid components in said composition ~~exclusive of said water~~.

18. (Previously Presented) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, said fibers that promote adhesion of the composition to soil comprising a highly processed fiber having significant to substantial physical and structural breakdown of the fiber shaft, and said fibers that facilitate emergence of newly sprouted seeds or plants through the fibrous composition comprising a coarser fiber.

19. (Previously Presented) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 18, said highly processed fiber comprising at least one of recycled paper, recycled newsprint, partially digested wood or plant fibers, chemically or pulped wood or plant fibers.

20. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 18, said coarser fiber comprising at least one of thermally processed wood fibers, other wood fibers, staple fibers, synthetic fibers, or inorganic fibers.

21. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, further comprising a pH adjustor in an amount so that the composition has a reduced pH in water in a range of about 9 to about 13.

22. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 21, wherein said pH adjustor included in an amount so that the composition has a reduced pH in water in a range of about 10 to about 12.8.

23. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 21, wherein said pH adjustor is included in an amount so that the composition has a reduced pH in water in a range of about 10.5 to about 12.6.

24. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 21, said pH adjustor comprising at least one organic acid.

25. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 24, said organic acid comprising at least one of citric acid, carbonic acid, formic acid, acetic acid, propanoic acid, benzoic acid, oxalic acid, glycolic acid, or ascorbic acid.

26. (Original) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, further comprising at least one type of plant seeds.

27. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said composition is a precursor composition to which water is added in order to yield a final composition for use in manufacturing a soil binding and revegetation composition suitable for application to denuded soil so as to prevent or slow erosion of the soil, the precursor composition comprising:

~~a soil binding portion that, when mixed with water, is suitable for binding soil particles together, the soil binding portion comprised of:~~

~~a carbohydrate;~~

~~a protein;~~

~~an iron compound; and~~

~~a strong base for increasing solubility of the carbohydrate and protein in water by making the composition strongly alkaline pH when mixed with water; and~~

~~a soil revegetation portion comprised of:~~

~~a fibrous material comprising at least two different types of fibers,~~

~~one of the types of fibers comprising highly processed fibers having significant to substantial physical and structural breakdown of the fiber shaft, and~~

~~another of the types of fibers comprising coarser fibers~~

28. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation precursor composition as defined in claim 27, the precursor composition comprising at least two parts that are initially stored separately so that said two parts are individually mixable with water when manufacturing the soil revegetation final composition.

29. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation precursor composition as defined in claim 1 27, further comprising water wherein said carbohydrate and said protein comprise at least one type of endosperm.

30. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation precursor composition as defined in claim ~~28~~ 29, a mixture of at least a portion of said endosperm, iron compound and strong base comprising a first part of the precursor composition and the fibrous material comprising a second part of the precursor composition.

31. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation precursor composition as defined in claim 1 27, said ~~highly-processed~~ fibers that promote adhesion of the composition to soil comprising at least one of recycled paper, recycled newsprint, partially digested wood or plant fibers, or chemically pulped wood or plant fibers.

32. (Currently Amended) A soil binding and revegetation precursor composition as defined in claim 1 27, said ~~coarser~~ fibers that facilitate emergence of newly sprouted seeds or plants comprising at least one of thermally processed wood fibers, other wood fibers, staple fibers, synthetic fibers, or inorganic fibers.

33. (Original) A precursor composition as defined in claim 27, further comprising a pH adjustor.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a the soil binding and revegetation composition according to claim 29, ~~suitable for application to denuded soil so as to prevent or slow erosion of the soil, the method~~ comprising:

mixing together said water, ~~an endosperm comprising~~ carbohydrate, and protein, an iron compound, and a strong base to form an intermediate composition having a strongly alkaline pH; and

adding a said fibrous material to said intermediate composition so as to form the soil binding and revegetation composition, ~~said fibrous material comprising at least two different types of fibers,~~

~~one of the types of fibers comprising highly processed fibers, and
another of the types of fibers comprising coarser fibers.~~

35. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 34, said ~~more highly processed~~ fibers that promote adhesion of the composition to soil comprising at least one of recycled paper, recycled newsprint, partially digested wood or plant fibers, or chemically pulped wood or plant fibers.

36. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 34, ~~coarser~~ said fibers that facilitate emergence of newly sprouted seeds or plants comprising at least one of thermally processed wood fibers, other wood fibers, staple fibers, synthetic fibers, or inorganic fibers.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 34, further comprising adding a pH adjustor to the intermediate composition or soil binding and revegetation composition in order to reduce the pH of the intermediate or soil binding and revegetation composition to within a range of about 9 to about 13.

38. (Original) A method of treating soil so as to facilitate revegetation thereof, comprising:
applying the soil binding and revegetation composition of claim 1 to soil; and
allowing the soil binding and revegetation composition to bind particles found within the soil.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of treating soil as defined in claim 38, the soil binding and revegetation composition being applied by at least one of aerial spraying or broadcasting.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of treating soil as defined in claim 38, the soil binding and revegetation composition being applied by at least one of mechanical ground-based spraying or broadcasting.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of treating soil as defined in claim 38, the soil binding and revegetation composition being applied by at least one of manual spraying or broadcasting.

42. (Original) A method of treating soil as defined in claim 38, the soil binding and revegetation composition being applied to soil at a construction site in order to prevent erosion and promote revegetation of the soil.

43. (Original) A method of treating soil as defined in claim 38, the soil binding and revegetation composition being applied to at least one of soil or ash at a burn site in order to prevent erosion and promote revegetation of the soil.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of treating soil as defined in claim 38, the soil binding and revegetation composition being applied to denuded soil resulting from at least one of a land slide, an avalanche, or grading of land.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of treating soil as defined in claim 38, the soil binding and revegetation composition being applied to a powder resulting ~~from~~ from at least one of the grinding of rock or other industrial or building operations or overburden and tailings from mining.